

1 **HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 26**

2 (By Delegate Rowan)

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6 Requesting the Division of Highways to name that portion of U. S.
7 Route 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with School
8 Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with
9 Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles more or less, as
10 the "Fort Pearsall Highway".

11 WHEREAS, U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from its
12 intersection with School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to
13 its intersection with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles
14 more or less, bisects the original Fairfax grant given to Job
15 Pearsall as documented by the 1751 map by Jefferson and Frye; and

16 WHEREAS, The colonial history of the region is represented by
17 the building of a fort by Job and John Pearsall in the location of
18 the Pearsall Land Grant later known as Pearsall's Flats; and

19 WHEREAS, The largest Hopewell Indian Mound east of the Ohio
20 River and dating from 1000 A.D. is situated in Indian Mound
21 Cemetery overlooking this stretch of highway; and

22 WHEREAS, The home known as Mechanicsburg, which has stood since
23 the Antebellum Period at the intersection of Fox's Hollow Road and
24 U. S. Route 50, witnessed some of the earliest fighting in the

American Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The South Branch River Road that was used as a vital link for traffic in the South Branch of the Potomac River Valley intersects with U. S. Route 50 a short distance from Romney and was the venue for the murder of Confederate Captain George W. Stump; and

WHEREAS, Sycamore Dale, the substantial brick home of David Gibson which narrowly escaped being burned during the American Civil War by Colonel Lew Wallace and his Force of 11th Indiana Zouave Infantry and was the location for the surrender of Confederate Partisans McNeill's Rangers, stands as a silent witness to the comings and goings of the Northwestern Turnpike and its successor U. S. Route 50; and

WHEREAS, The Romney Covered Bridge and its successors near Sycamore Dale and Romney have carried U. S. Route 50 over the South Branch of the Potomac River since the building of the Northwestern Turnpike; and

WHEREAS, The original bridge was documented in period Civil War lithographs and later burned by retreating Confederates during the Civil War; and

WHEREAS, The Union Army fort atop Mill Ridge and known as Fort Mill Ridge was built to guard the western approaches to Romney and to command traffic in the South Branch of the Potomac River Valley; and

1 WHEREAS, The Hampshire Southern Railroad laid its tracks
2 crossing U. S. Route 50 a short distance west to herald the arrival
3 of commuter and freight service in the South Branch of the Potomac
4 River Valley at Vanderlip in 1909; and

5 WHEREAS, The City of Romney will be celebrating its 250th
6 Anniversary in 2012 and a special committee made up of hardworking,
7 dedicated citizens from throughout Hampshire County has done much
8 planning and work to ensure that the determination and sacrifices
9 of our ancestors and our heritage are properly preserved and
10 honored; and

11 WHEREAS, It is fitting to designate that section of U. S. Route
12 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with School Street in
13 Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection with Fox's Hollow
14 Road, some 3.7 miles west of Romney more or less, as the "Fort
15 Pearsall Highway" in recognition of the long and varied history of
16 the area; therefore, be it

17 *Resolved by the West Virginia Legislature:*

18 That the Legislature hereby requests the Division of Highways
19 name that portion of U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from its
20 intersection with School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to
21 its intersection with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles
22 more or less, as the "Fort Pearsall Highway"; and, be it

23 *Further Resolved,* That the Division of Highways is hereby
24 requested to have made and be placed signs identifying that portion

1 of U. S. Route 50 in Hampshire County from its intersection with
2 School Street in Romney, West Virginia, west to its intersection
3 with Fox's Hollow Road, a distance of 3.7 miles more or less, as
4 the "Fort Pearsall Highway"; and, be it

5 *Further Resolved*, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates
6 forward a certified copy of this resolution to the Secretary of the
7 Department of Transportation and to the members of the Romney 250th
8 Anniversary Committee.